



TAWA INCORPORATED

NEWSLETTER

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As we come to the last months of what has been an unusual year, Tawa U3A is in good heart! Our group activities have resumed and most of the courses and events that had to be postponed or delayed during our Level 2 Covid lockdown, have been rescheduled before the end of November.

Details for the rescheduled activities are on the U3A website or you can contact the leader or coordinator of the course you enrolled for.

U3A Tawa Activities feature in Seniors Week, 9 to 15 November

U3A is a countrywide organisation aimed at the entertainment and education of Seniors. Tawa U3A has a strong social membership with many interesting activities. Wellington City Council is organising a Seniors Week 9 to 15 November in which Tawa U3A is participating, with nine open sessions. More details can be found on our Tawa U3A website. There will also be a full list in the booklet that will be delivered to your letterbox by the City Council.

Please encourage your friends and neighbours to 'try out' a U3A activity that week. On the Friday morning that week (13 November) there will be displays and representatives from community groups based in the Tawa Community Centre, Cambridge Street. If you are in Tawa township that morning between 10am and noon, drop into the Community Centre to have a look and a chat.

Planning for the coming year

Our focus now turns to preparing for the coming year. The "Courses subcommittee" is currently gathering details about the possible activities planned for 2021.

This subcommittee is keen to hear from people able to assist in providing both an interesting and wide-ranging programme of courses. If you have a skill or interest that could be shared with others, or have a suggestion for a course or a speaker or topic, please contact Pat Hammond on 027 335 0038 exlibrarypat52@gmail.com or Jancis Potter on 027 6354733 jancispotter@gmail.com

The new 2021 course booklet will be delivered to you towards the end of November, 2020.

U3A Mana/Tawa Joint Outing: Day Trip to the Wairarapa

In recent years, the Tawa and Mana U3A groups have looked for ways to support each other's groups and their programmes. A recent activity offered in early October was a "Goldcard, no stress day trip to the Wairarapa". The outing was a great success.

Organised by U3A Mana's Bill Gebbie, a group of over 20 members armed with little more than their GOLDCARDS, set off for the Wairarapa on Saturday 3 October. The train from Porirua to Wellington, neatly followed by train to Carterton, arrived just a little late for morning coffee at Wild Oates Café that is a short walk from the station. The day was fine and warm, though a bit breezy (but we're used to that).

A bus to Greytown and a visit to the Cobblestones Museum was an impressive experience, before wandering back along the Main Street to stop off at any of the many cafes for lunch. We chose the Main Street Deli, eating in their very pleasant sheltered courtyard.



There was also time to browse in the boutique shops, before catching a bus back to Carterton for the last stop at Regent 58 Alehouse. This gave time to catch up with friends over a glass of something prior to back to the Carterton Station for the return trip to Wellington and finally home on the Porirua train.

Invitation

Tawa U3A members are invited to a talk by Mana U3A member, **Irene Swadling**, who has just published a book "**Crying Trees, A Bushman story set in King Country in the Depression**". The meeting will be at Kapiti U3A's Kaleidoscope group.

When: Monday 2 November at 9.45am.

Venue: Parklands Social Centre, Waikanae (at the bottom of Sylvan Avenue).

People are asked to be seated by 9.30am. Visitors (those who are not members of Kapiti U3A) pay an entry fee of \$4. (Note: Parklands parking is for residents only unless you have a walking difficulty).

Here is a link to a Stuff article where Irene talks about her love of writing:

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/.../the-joys-of-writing-in-ones...>

Farewell to Fraser Jackson

We are sad to record that U3A Tawa will shortly be losing longstanding member **Fraser Jackson**, to Auckland. Fraser is a man with a stellar academic and business consultancy background, but in U3A, many will have valued and profited from his membership of the Current Affairs group.



The group can usually muster around 30 participants and one can only be impressed with the wide range of skills they can collectively claim. There is rarely a subject raised where there isn't someone in the room who can speak effectively and persuasively on it, no matter how challenging.

Despite his erudite background, Fraser wears it very lightly. His mode of operation is to listen intently to others and then to gently introduce a refined overview and analysis of the issues involved. Overstatements are quietly brought down to earth. Economically questionable propositions are weighed and lovingly discarded. Fraser is not at all dogmatic and is the first to accept that nobody knows everything and the information we have is increasingly imperfect especially when we are addressing wholly novel situations.

One instance will suffice. Ever since the major lockdown (for Covid) a debate has been growing as to whether the Government should have been more influenced by the budgetary considerations or the health and humanitarian ones. Fraser has never suggested that economics are irrelevant. Rather he has suggested that the Government, in putting a high value on the health of the nation is at the same time laying the groundwork for a better quality of community-based economic recovery; viewed in the wider sense. The virus is new. We must first know better what we are up against, rather than apply some ruthless economic 'rules' and expect Covid to behave like just another 'predictable' market force.

The group will be losing a highly tuned specialist with a wide range of personal interests that revere our NZ natural heritage. As group leader, Dave Smith observes: "It was only recently that I learned that Fraser is an Emeritus Professor in Econometrics. Had I known that four years ago I might have been inclined to measure my words a good deal more carefully than I did! Thank goodness that (a) he never let on and (b) he's a damn good sport. We shall miss him. Tawa's loss in Auckland's gain".

Contributed by Dave Smith; Leader U3A Current Affairs group

Our condolences

Tawa U3A members extend our sympathy to the families of the following people who have died in recent months. **Athol Forrest, Colin Niven and Deidre Shanks.**

Tawa U3A will celebrate 25 years in existence in 2021

Back in 1996 a small group of local people had the initiative and enthusiasm to bring the concept of U3A (University of the third age) to Tawa.

Begun in France in the 1970s this movement was based upon the belief that older people could continue to learn during the 'third age' of life. It is an organisation that enables mature people to enjoy their increased leisure hours picking up new skills, interests and friends. Members willingly give of their time, skills and life experience in organising courses and groups where this can happen.

Your U3A committee 2020

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